

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE STAFF SERGEANT VALERIE PHILON FOR HER
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AND SEMINOLE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the brave men and women of our Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force demonstrate a resolute spirit and unmatched selflessness, reminding us there are few things more American than giving of ourselves to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history, generations of service members have answered the call to leave their families, their jobs, and put their futures and even their lives on the line to valiantly defend our nation; and

WHEREAS, for many service members, the sacrifice has ended in permanent injury or death, yet their spirit remains in the continued preservation of our freedoms and the promise of liberty; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 30,000 living veterans in Seminole County who served our Nation in times of peace and war. Through their service, they kept America strong; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Valerie Philon enlisted in the United States Air Force in Farmingdale, NY, and proudly served for 6 years from 1975 to 1981. She was the first female to work at the APO office in Yokota, Japan. She received numerous awards, including the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, and the Air Force Longevity Award, in addition to her multiple quarterly awards; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Valerie Philon moved to Seminole County in 1994 and worked at the AT&T Call Center in Research Park as an Administrative Assistant during much of her tenure. She received multiple awards including the President's Volunteer Service Awards from 2015 to 2018. She hosted blood drives from 1998 until 2019 where 644 gallons of blood were donated for the local blood supply. Since 2010, she crocheted different articles of clothing for patients of all ages for Advent Health, American Heart Association, Save The Children, the Special Olympics, Operation Gratitude; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Valerie Philon and her husband David are a proud military family with two daughters who also served during the Gulf War. The Philon family is a Gold Star Family. Their oldest daughter, Sarah, is a commissioned weather officer with 23 years of service in the United States Navy. Their youngest daughter, Laura, lost her life while serving in the United States Navy in Virginia Beach, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Valerie Philon has brought great credit and distinction upon herself, the United States of America, the United States Air Force, and Seminole County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, express our gratitude, admiration, and respect for Staff Sergeant Valerie Philon, for her outstanding service to the United States Air Force and residents of Seminole County.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this Proclamation is presented to Staff Sergeant Valerie Philon, along with our sincere congratulations and recognition as Seminole County's

“Veteran of the Month”

ADOPTED this 24th day of October 2023.



Amy Lockhart, Chairman
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners